Increasing use of psychotropic substances by drug users

2857. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nations Drug Control Panel has warned against the increasing use of psychotropic substances by drug users and recommended tightening of control by Government and pharmaceutical industry over the availability of certain drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its report for the year 1998 mentions that the analgastic Buprenerphine is increasingly being abused in South Asia and has already become one of the main durgs abused in some parts of the regions. Buprenerphine is reportedly abused mostly by young man who live in urban centres in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. It is also mentioned therein that other medicinal products such as hyphotics and sodatives and anxiclytics (barbiturates and benzediazepines) continue to be abused in most countries in South Asia. Abuse of codeine based cough medicines have also been pointed out in the INCB Report.

(c) All State drug control authorities have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the Inspectorate Staff to prevent the easy availability of these drugs to retail outlets and also to ensure that these drugs marketed under different brand names are supplied against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner to control the possible misuse of these drugs. Manufacturers marketing formulations containing these drugs have been advised to have minimum stockist outlets for sale and to ensure that these drugs should be sold and used under strict medical supervision. Export of psychotropic substances out of India is permitted on export authorisation issued after verification of orginal import certificate issued by the competent authority of the importing country and if the proposed import is within the estimated requirements of that country as per estimates indicated by the INCB.

Construction of C.G.H.S. Dispensary in Shalimar Bagh

2858. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minsiter of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether land for a CGHS dispensary for Central Government employees residing in Shalimar Bagh was sanctioned;

(b) whether possession of that plot was taken by CGHS and the building plan was prepared and approved for the aforesaid dispensary; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in construction of the said dispensary and by when the work for construction of this dispensary is likely to be started?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) yes, Sir. The land for a CGHS dispensary in Shalimar Bagh was allotted by DDA and possession of the same has been taken over by the CGHS. Due to shortage of funds, it has not been possible to sanction funds for construction of the CGHS building at Shalimer Bagh at present.